

April 25th at Marcos de Niza High School in Tempe.

The Relay for Life fundraiser is taking place all over the country, bringing over three million Americans together in the battle against cancer. This event not only raises money for cancer research, but it connects cancer survivors with those who have lost a loved one to the disease with those who want to show their support for the cause. This extensive network is an extremely valuable resource to those whose lives have been affected by cancer.

One in every three people will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. The American Cancer Society is the largest source of non-profit cancer research funding in the United States, and thanks to their efforts, cancer survival rates have consistently increased over the last 15 years. Fundraisers like Relay for Life allow the ACS to continue to contribute to this significant and often life-changing research.

I want to congratulate the Relay for Life on its 25th year as the American Cancer Society's signature fundraiser, and express my continued support for cancer research initiatives. I am proud that my home town of Tempe has the opportunity to host this event.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, and those participating in the fight against cancer.

HONORING THE LUNAR ORBITER IMAGE RECOVERY PROJECT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend the Lunar Orbiter Image Recovery Project and all those who have contributed their time and effort to ensure that historic images and vital data from the Lunar Orbiter missions of the 1960s are not lost to future generations.

In 1965, Charles Byrne, an engineer with Bellcomm, Inc., had the foresight to propose that NASA record data from the Lunar Orbiter missions onto tape recorders. NASA agreed and the images returned from the Lunar Orbiters were backed up on AMPEX FR-900 tape drives. To date, these images are some of the highest resolution images we have of the Moon. Those images include a high-resolution version of "Earthrise," the first picture of the Earth from the Moon's vantage point. Time Magazine has called this image "the photo of the century." The tapes also contain the first stereo imagery of the Moon's surface. Indeed, these are some of the best images of the Moon ever taken, far superior from those received from the Hubble telescope.

Astonishingly, all of the images stored on the 1,500 14-inch diameter tape reels were nearly destroyed. With its focus turned to the Apollo mission, NASA saw little further use for the tapes. Fortunately, Nancy Evans, co-founder of NASA Planetary Data Systems, convinced her superiors at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory to retain the tapes. Evans also salvaged three refrigerator-sized FR-900 tape drives, which she stored in her own garage for two decades. Evans and Mark Nelson, of Caltech, managed to get a few tape drives

running but their project ultimately folded. NASA turned down her requests for assistance after placing an estimate of \$6 million on the cost to restore the data.

Fortunately, Evans' efforts caught the attention of Dennis Wingo and Keith Cowing, both of whom have been focused on space exploration for many years. They arranged to move the tapes and drives to NASA's Ames Research Center in Mountain View, California. Ames' director, Peter Worden, arranged for them to store the equipment in an old abandoned McDonalds, which they jokingly referred to as "McMoon's." Wingo and Cowing began working with Ken Zin, an army veteran, to get the drives up and running. NASA contributed \$100,000 to the efforts. Cowing invested his own money in the project and the team enlisted the support of local students to recover the images.

There is still a long way to go to complete this project but the public's interest in it is more than just a matter of historical record. The images have the potential to push NASA's climate data back a full decade. And just as the Lunar Orbiter images provided data crucial to safely landing our first astronauts on the moon, those same images will assist the current efforts of the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter mission by providing a baseline for understanding the changes to the Moon between the 1960s and present day.

As with the Lunar Orbiter's images themselves, the efforts of those who have devoted themselves to this project should not go unnoticed or unrecorded. Although space exploration is a vast, complicated enterprise, it ultimately relies on individuals who have the vision and imagination to move us forward. The Lunar Orbiter Image Recovery Project is an example of that kind of vision and imagination, and those who have contributed to the Project and to preceding efforts surely deserve our gratitude.

REMEMBERING THE 10TH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE CHINESE COM- MUNIST PARTY'S (CCP) PERSE- CUTION OF THE FALUN GONG

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, sadly, 2009 marks the tenth year of the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) persecution of the Falun Gong. After a 10,000 person silent, peaceful protest in front of CCP offices in Beijing, then-General Secretary Jiang Zemin designated the Falun Gong an "evil cult" and in July 1999, began a brutal crackdown on Falun Gong practitioners. Since then, communist Chinese authorities have imprisoned roughly 6,000 Falun Gong practitioners and brutally killed more than 3,000. Following death, communist Chinese authorities have routinely harvested organs from executed Falun Gong prisoners.

Recently, on February 1, 2009, communist Chinese authorities arrested 61-year-old Zhu Lijin from Tianjin for distributing leaflets about the Falun Gong. On February 16, 2009, Ms. Lijin's family was notified she was sentenced to one year and three months imprisonment in Banqiao Women's "Re-education Through

Labor" camp. While the imprisonment of a 61-year-old woman demonstrates the communist Chinese regime's paranoia, her arrest remains a grave injustice and Ms. Lijin must be immediately set free.

RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEERS OF FAIRFAX COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and the contributions that its volunteers make to our community. Fairfax CASA serves as an advocate for best interest of every abused and neglected child referred by the county juvenile system. CASA volunteers perform critical services to ensure the very best care and home environment for each child. Each year Fairfax CASA honors the most outstanding volunteers for their noble devotion.

Fairfax CASA presented its May Cook "Heart of Gold" Award to John Nelson. Mr. Nelson personifies the truly dedicated CASA volunteer. Over the past six years, he has advocated tirelessly on behalf of 19 children, fully committing his efforts to each child until a safe and permanent home is secured. John digs deep below the surface for information; he often interviews every single person interfacing with a child in order to gain a complete picture of what is going on in the child's world. For this dedication, Fairfax CASA acknowledged his efforts with its highest volunteer honor.

Eight individuals are recognized by Fairfax CASA for their outstanding volunteer commitment based on a variety of quantitative measurements. Those individuals receiving the Special Achievement Award are: Connie Jaiswal, Pam Jones, Mark Knopf, Marie Mader, Frank Murphy, Shirley Readyhough, Bob Steward, and Lisa Walsh.

A number of volunteers with Fairfax CASA are recognized for achieving significant milestones of longevity with the program. The following volunteers were recognized for five years of service: Glenn MacKinnon, Barbara McLaughlin, Terry Nelson, Todd Skipper, and Phyllis Surret; for ten years of service: Nancy Hall; and, for fifteen years of service: Sandy Summers.

The outstanding efforts of the above-mentioned individuals merit special recognition but one must acknowledge the impact of all 165 volunteers who contributed their time to protect and support children through Fairfax CASA in 2008. These volunteers served 484 abused and neglected children including 214 newly referred by the Court. In serving these individuals, volunteers contributed more than 19,000 hours on their court assigned cases including completing 3,004 face-to-face visits and submitting 207 comprehensive and objective reports to the courts.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude for the efforts of these volunteers and their colleagues at Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates. The selfless commitment of these individuals provides enumerable benefits to